

REMARKS

Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for discussing this case with applicant's representative on July 10, 2005. During the discussion, the §112 rejections were discussed.

With the present paper, claims 3 and 5 have been amended to overcome the §112 rejections, as discussed. Support for the amendments to claim 3 is provided in the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 of the specification. No new matter has been added by the claim amendments.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by TANG '365. The Examiner has rejected claims 2 – 5 as being unpatentable over TANG in view of WILLIAMS. Applicant respectfully traverses.

As agreed upon by the prior two examiners, it is again submitted that the architecture of TANG is different from the presently claimed architecture, at least because the claimed forwarding information from the server *providing the service* is patentably distinguishable (and a non-obvious variation) from forwarding the information from the device *requesting the service*, as done by TANG. Thus, the claimed centralized system is not taught or suggested.

The Examiner is respectfully directed to col. 11, line 66 - col. 12, line 7; col. 12, lines 29 - 33; col. 12, line 61 - col. 13, line 5; and col. 13, lines 38 - 65. Although col. 12, line 61 refers to a communications server 80, it is believed that the server is software on the client PC and not a separate server. The directory service is explained at col. 11, lines 41 - 44 and also does not correspond to the claimed server system.

Consequently, TANG does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 1 and 5, for example, the information providing server notifying the profile server or “forwarding status information from the game server to a profile server,” and the server system software including an “updating code segment.” WILLIAMS et al. do not supply the deficiencies of TANG.

Put another way, TANG does not disclose or suggest an information providing server notifying a profile server when a request is made to the information providing server. Rather, TANG discloses each individual computer forwarding status information. TANG does not describe how the system would forward information about a service because such a feature is barely mentioned. Thus, an anticipation rejection is improper.

Assuming *arguendo* that TANG forwards service information in a manner similar to how the described status information is forwarded (which is not the case), it is submitted that the claimed forwarding information from the server providing the service is patentably distinguishable from forwarding the information from the device requesting the service, as done by TANG. Thus, the claimed centralized system is not taught or suggested. The Examiner relies upon the chat database and the directory service of TANG, but he cites no portion of the reference that teaches or suggests the claimed communication between the servers.

The claimed configuration provides advantages not offered by TANG’s system. As noted above, player information is updated via an information providing server. In other words, a profile server that manages player information is notified of information

from the information providing server. As a result, a player terminal may not rewrite (or update) his status information directly to the profile server. Such a configuration helps prevent cheating, such as falsifying status information and displaying a status message such as "I'm playing FFXI. Party members now wanted." Such a false message could be used by unscrupulous people to obtain address information of players responding to the false offer.

It is therefore requested that the Examiner indicate the allowability of claims 1 and 5.

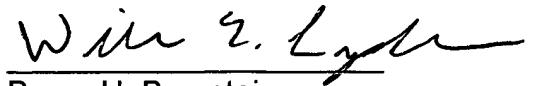
Dependent claims 3 and 4 are also believed to recite further patentable subject matter of the invention and therefore are also believed allowable over the prior art. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. For example, claim 3 now recites at least three states of the utilization status. At best, the applied reference shows only two utilization states: on and off, as disclosed in col. 6, line 67 - col. 7, line 1. The more general states of activity disclosed in TANG et al. do not pertain to the specifically claimed utilization status *of the information service*, which is of course provided by a server. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

The above amendments have been presented merely for the purpose of clarification, and not to overcome the applied prior art. Accordingly, no estoppel is deemed to result from any of the present amendments.

P23934.A13

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
K. MAEHIRO



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William E. Lyddane
Reg. No. 41,568

July 18, 2005
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191